

F-8-108

Union Chapel (Chapel Lutheran Church)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 11-21-2003

Survey No. F-8-108

Ca. 1863-1865

Union Chapel

Libertytown, Maryland

Private

Union Chapel is a good example of a hall plan church with a bell tower, a common form among rural churches in the mid-19th century. It was built to house both Lutheran and Reformed congregations as were many German churches in Frederick County.

Survey No. F-8-108
Union Chapel
Libertytown, Maryland vicinity

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties,
and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning, Religion

Resource Type:
Category: Building

Environment: Rural

Function & Use: Religion/religious structure/church

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes Xno

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Union Chapel

and/or common Chapel Lutheran Church

2. Location

street & number Daysville Road & Chestnut Grove Road, southeast corner not for publicationcity, town Libertytown X vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u>X</u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Chapel Lutheran Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Libertytown state and zip code MD 21762

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick St. folio

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

(Typed on separate sheet)

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1863-65

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(Typed on separate sheet)

Survey No. F-8-108

Williams, T.J.C. and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted 1979 by Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

H | | | | | | | | | |

state	code	county	code
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city or town Frederick **state** MD 21701

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

7.1 Description

Union Chapel is a brick hall plan church with an attached bell tower built in 1863-65 on the southeast corner of Daysville Road and Chestnut Grove Road about 1 1/4 miles west of Libertytown, Maryland. The main elevation faces north. The building was altered in 1954 with the erection of a brick education wing on the south elevation which has a cross gable roofline. A cupola tops the crossing of the original and 1954 sections.

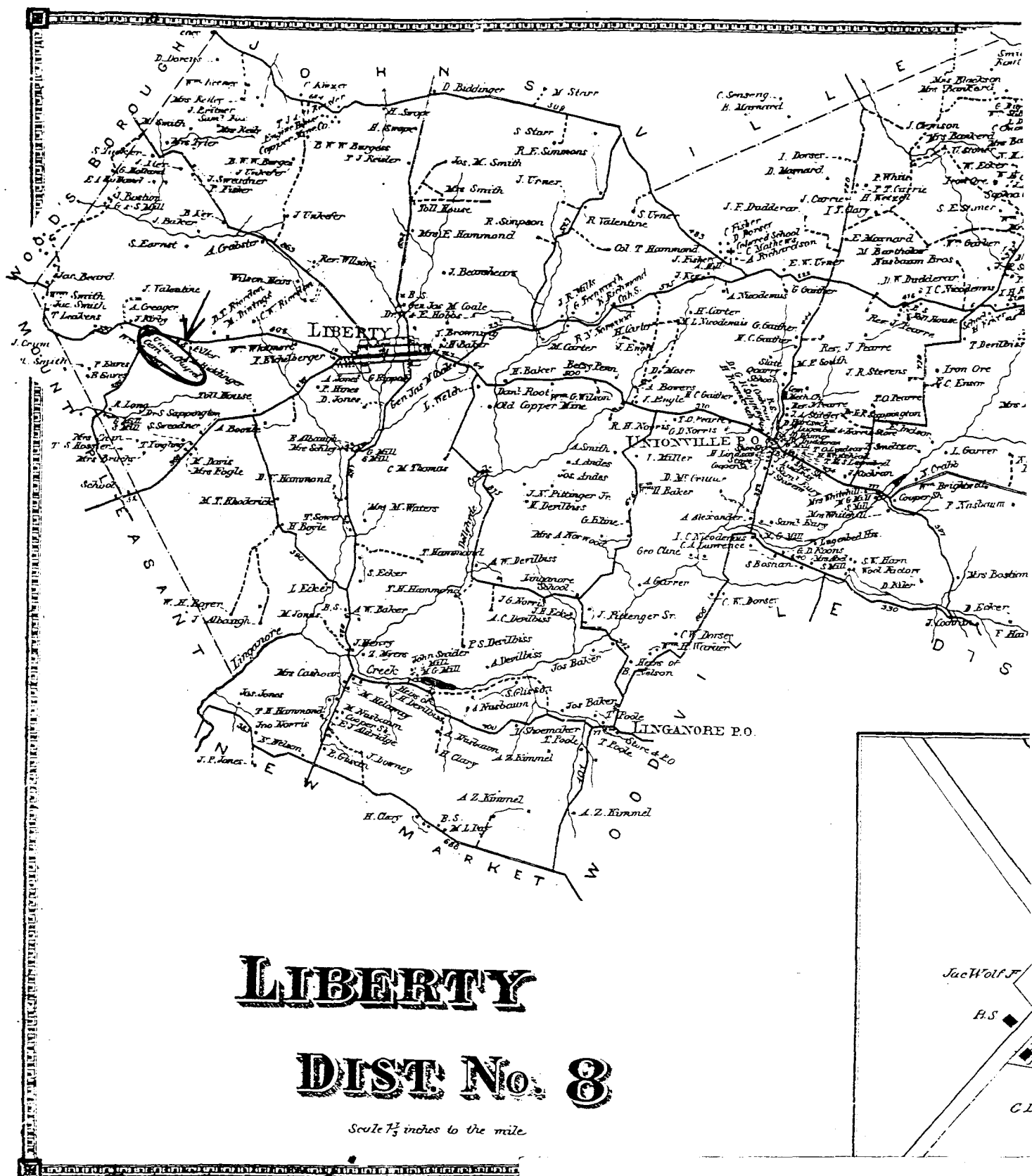
The entrance to the church is through double paneled doors in the tower base under a 4-light transom. Above the entrance is a semi-circular window with the inscription in stained glass: Union Lutheran Church, Libertytown, Maryland. The east and west sides of the bell tower have rectangular windows with early 20th century stained glass. The side elevations of the church have 4 bays each with stained glass windows. The belfry of the tower has arched openings and a hipped composition roof. A datestone in the northeast corner is inscribed 1963 and 1936. The south elevation has both interior and exterior chimney stacks.

The 7-course American bond brick exterior has been sandblasted and repointed. A photo of about 1976 in the foyer shows that the building had been painted a light color. Gutters conceal a corbeled dogtooth cornice. Two stained glass windows on the east elevation were damaged by a lightning strike on May 1, 1991, breaking some glass and tracery. The interior of the church is much altered in finish and fixtures. Plain painted plaster walls and ceiling. Pews, flooring, and altar furniture are recent replacements. The original rear wall of the church was removed when a choir was added in the 1954 alteration. The datestone indicates some work took place in 1936, but its nature is unknown at the time of this survey. The cemetery south of the church contains early slate headstones with German inscriptions. Civil War period soldiers' graves are also included.

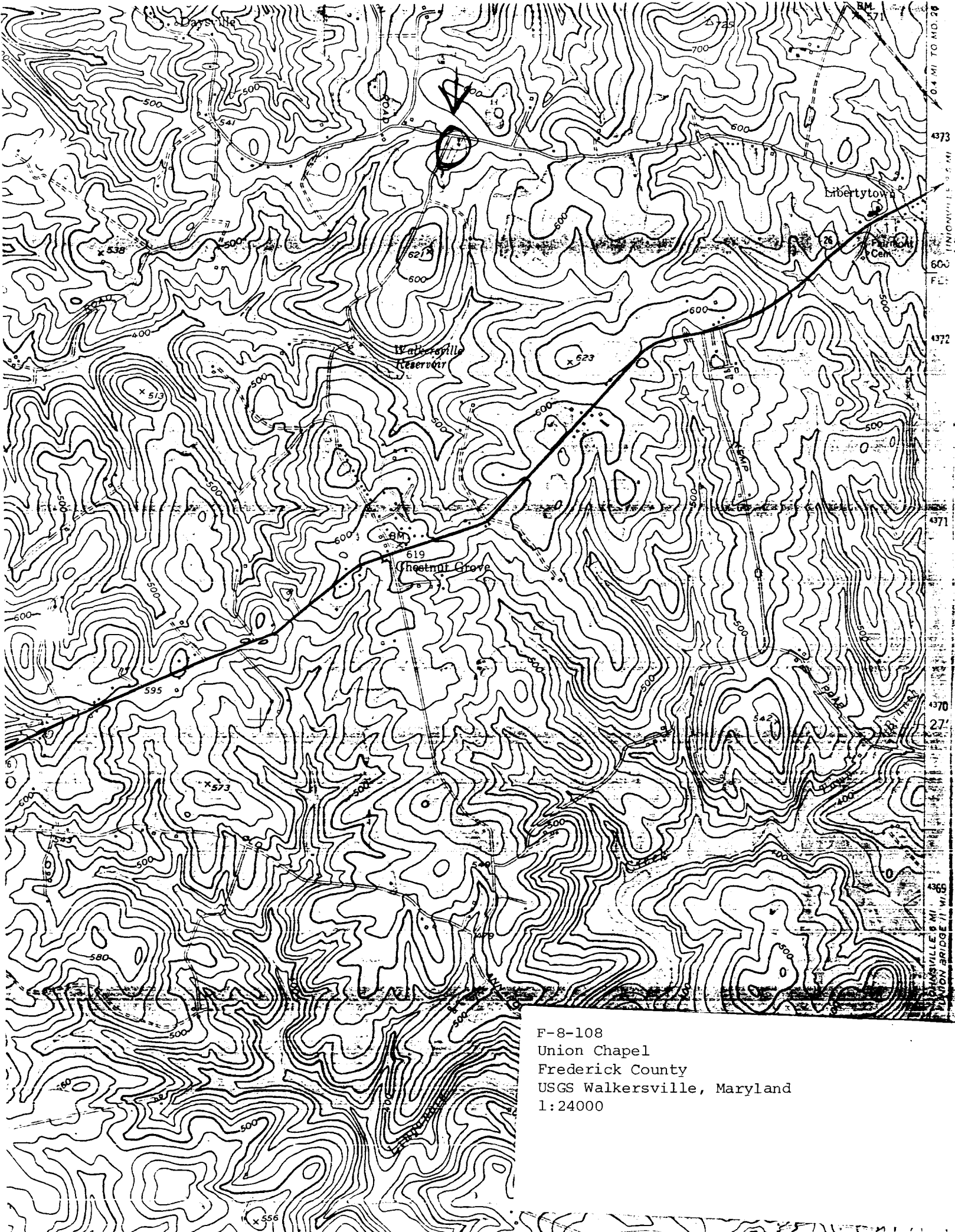
8.1 Significance

Union Chapel is a good representative of the common practice in the first three quarters of the 19th century of Lutheran and Reformed congregations using the same buildings for worship. Other "Union" churches are found throughout the county, although most, like Union Chapel, dropped the name when the Reformed congregations built their own churches. Architecturally, the church is a good example of rural churches in the mid-19th century when belfrys and steeples became common additions to the basic hall plan. Similar examples are Rocky Hill Church (F-8-88), Ca. 1882; and Oak Hill Church of God (F-8-99; Oak Hill Survey District), Ca. 1840's.

Union Chapel was used jointly by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations into the early 20th century. Further research should be done on the history as well as building activities.



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Union Chapel
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County,
1873



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Union Chapel
Frederick County
USGS Walkersville, Maryland
1:24000



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Union Chapel Lutheran Church
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

May 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

Northeast corner view

1/2



F-8-108

Union Chapel Lutheran Church

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

May 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

Cemetery view of late 18th century slate
headstones, German inscriptions

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